

SUMMARY OF FACTS REGARDING VOTING MACHINE DEMO PROJECT

The Law

Connecticut Public Act 03-07 allows this office to conduct a project using electronic voting machines in at least 3 towns in the state during the 2003 and 2004 elections provided sufficient numbers of machine vendors willing to donate resources can be obtained. The Secretary of the State is responsible for selecting which machines may be used, coordinating the project by working with both local officials and the voting machine companies, conducting an exit poll to learn of voters' impressions of the machines and then reporting to the General Assembly the results of such exit poll.

Secretary of the State Actions to Date

In May 2003 letters were sent to various voting machine companies that have been certified by the National Association of State Election Directors to solicit their participation in this project. Companies will have to supply machines at no cost, train the local officials on how to set up and use the machines and to provide a representative in each polling place using their machine. Four companies met all criteria set forth above and will participate in the project. They are Avanti (International Technology, Inc.), Sequoia (Voting Systems), Danaher Control (LHS) and Diebolt Election System.

Also during May, letters were sent to all Registrars of Voters soliciting their town's participation in the project. Numerous towns submitted letters and eight towns were selected to participate. The selections were based on both the location of the town and the number of registered voters. The towns that will participate are: Cromwell, Griswold, Hartford, Middletown, Sharon, Southington, West Hartford and Wilton. In many cases, the electronic machines will only be used in one or two districts in a town and not the entire town.

The Registrars in these towns will be responsible for learning how to use the voting machine that is selected for their town, training their poll workers on its use and for holding public demonstrations of the machine in their town to educate voters.

The Secretary of the State has advised local officials of what voting machine company will be assigned to their town and the registrars of voters have met with representatives of the voting machine company to discuss training, demonstrating the machine in their town and specific requirements for the use of the machines. A press conference will be held in September to announce this information.

The Secretary of the State is creating different handbooks for each of the machine types and these will be available to the local officials in early October so that they have sufficient time to train their poll workers.